

In the Claims:

Claims 1-19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously Presented) A method of fastening an auxiliary joining element to a sheet metal work-piece wherein the auxiliary joining element includes a foot, comprising the steps of:

providing a die having a recess defined by a wall disposed in said die, wherein said wall is interrupted by die parts being movable radially inwardly of said wall;

retaining the sheet metal work-piece over said recess;

depressing the foot into the sheet metal work-piece thereby deforming the sheet-metal workpiece into said recess and holding said die parts radially inwardly of said wall thereby simultaneously deforming said sheet metal work-piece into the foot and forming spaced undercuts into the foot for retaining the auxiliary joining element to the sheet metal work-piece.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, further including the step of forcing portions of the sheet metal work-piece spaced from the undercut into the undercut.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said step of depressing the foot into the sheet metal work-piece is further defined by forming wall sections into the ~~sheer~~ sheet metal work-piece generally parallel to a depressing direction of the foot.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as set forth in claim 20, further including the step of forcing said die parts radially outwardly while withdrawing the foot from said cavity thereby releasing the undercuts from said die parts.

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